



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON DC 20510-2202

June 7, 2005

Mr. Jeffrey Kowalski

Dear Mr. Kowalski:

Thank you for contacting me about the Employee Free Choice Act (S.842). I appreciate hearing your views on this matter.

Labor unions serve an important role in our society and our economy by helping to give workers a voice in their workplace. With a collective voice and a system through which they can bargain, working people have a greater chance to improve the safety and quality of their jobs, as well as their living standards. For these reasons, I fully support the right of workers to form and join unions.

As you know, the National Labor Relations Act grants workers the right to form or join a labor union. Under this act, the federal government regulates the process of union formation and ensures that democratic principles are followed both in the initial voting that establishes a union and in the day-to-day operation of the union. If a majority of workers votes to create a union, that union then becomes the bargaining unit for the specified workers at that site. All of the workers at that site receive the benefits of contracts negotiated by the union. Consequently, workers at that site pay union dues to support the activities of the union to negotiate and enforce contracts on their behalf.

S.842, of which I am a cosponsor, would allow employees to freely choose whether to form unions by signing cards authorizing union representation, provide mediation and arbitration for first-time contract disputes and establish stronger penalties for violation of employee rights by employers. This bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, where it awaits further consideration.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

  
Carl Levin